

CALIFORNIA SKI

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,

Mill Valley, CA, October 4, 2013.

Re Support for H.R. 3189

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,

Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: On behalf of the members and directors of the California Ski Industry Association I am writing to add our support to H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act.

This narrowly focused bill is designed to resolve an unfair regulation requiring Forest Service permittees to cede, without compensation, their water rights to the agency. Nineteen of California's twenty-six ski areas operate on Forest Service lands. We have a long history of working with the agency and will continue to do so in the future. However, our winter sports facilities on federal lands are strongly opposed to the clauses that would require California permittees to cede their valuable water rights to the agency without compensation. Such clauses represent a taking and carry far-reaching legal and economic implications, not only for our industry but also for all other permittees operating on Forest Service lands.

A recent study by San Francisco State University reported that California's winter sports resorts generate \$1.3 billion in economic activity and over 16,000 jobs in our mountain communities. Our resorts have millions of dollars invested in their water rights. In many cases the source of these rights are located outside of the permit boundaries.

We appreciate your scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and thank you and the sponsors of this important legislation.

Yours truly,

BOB ROBERTS,
President & CEO.

RECOGNIZING JOHN AND NANCY LOVE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents John Love, and the marriage of over 50 years to his recently departed wife Nancy.

John is a retired Air Force officer who served his country proudly in Vietnam. He and Nancy met first met on January 6, 1962, at a restaurant in Marquette, Michigan. She was sitting with her mother when John approached the striking brunette to ask her to dance. The rest, as they say, is history.

They got engaged 6 weeks later and were married on May 5, 1962, simply following their hearts.

In May of 2012, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by watching their beloved Detroit Tigers after renewing their vows.

Sadly, Nancy's health deteriorated in the months that followed, passing away in her loving husband's arms in December of that same year. She is buried in Section 66 of Arlington National Cemetery, in a spot next to where John will one day be laid to rest.

The Love family had two sons and five grandchildren, shared and continue to share a close personal relationship, cherishing each other deeply.

While she has left this Earth in physical form, Nancy will always live in John's heart

until they are reunited once more. John has written a love song to Nancy, entitled "My Love Song Forever," produced with John White and D.B. Rielly of WhiteWater Sound Studios in New York.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the kind of love we can all connect with, and appreciate for its intensity and durability over many years. May we all be so lucky to find that special someone.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE HEATH BROTHERS CONFECTIONARY IN ROBINSON, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial of the Heath Brothers Confectionary in Robinson, Illinois. Founded one hundred years ago by L.S. Heath and his sons Bayard and Everett, this once small business has expanded to become a global franchise. Over the past 100 years, the Heath Confectionary has produced many successful products, chief among them the Heath Bar, a delicious toffee candy covered in milk chocolate and almonds.

Made by hand until 1942, production of Heath Bars was eventually ramped up to commercial scale to supply American troops during World War II. Throughout the conflict, Heath Bars were a staple of soldiers' rations, providing them with a small taste of home during their long deployments.

Known as "America's Finest," popularity for the candy grew steadily after the war. Recognizing the potential of the Heath Confectionary, the company was eventually acquired by Leif, Inc. in 1989, itself acquired by Hershey in 1996.

Today, Hershey maintains a plant in Robinson, Illinois, producing iconic candies such as Heath Bars, Paydays, Whoppers and Milk Duds. I applaud Hershey for maintaining the plant's roots in Robinson and for their contribution to the community through the creation of jobs and their generous corporate giving.

I invite all members to stop by my office to try a Heath Bar and all of the various other Hershey products produced in our district for themselves.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES

ASSOCIATION,

Washington, DC, March 10, 2014.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: On behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA), I write in support of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. The NWRA is a

nonprofit federation made up of agricultural and municipal water providers, state associations, and individuals dedicated to the conservation, enhancement and efficient management of our nation's most important natural resource, water. Our members provide clean water to millions of individuals, families, agricultural producers and other businesses throughout the western United States.

Collectively, NWRA members have spent billions of dollars investing in the development of state issued water rights and the associated infrastructure in order to provide a safe and reliable water supply to their customers. Their ability to continue meeting the nation's growing demand for clean water is dependent upon access to this vital resource. The Water Rights Protection Act would protect NWRA members' water rights and those who depend on the water they deliver by preventing federal agencies from making a permit, permit renewal or other action conditional upon surrendering a water right. The protection of water rights is of the utmost importance to our members. Water rights constitute a valuable property right and as such are valuable assets that are often irreplaceable.

For more than eighty years NWRA members have helped finance, maintain and manage some of the most valuable and iconic water systems in the world and have turned virtual deserts into some of the most productive agricultural land on the planet. To accomplish this irrigators have worked collaboratively with federal agency partners at the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers. That collaborative partnership, formed through contracts and other agreements, is protected by this bill. Our members are gravely concerned by recent efforts by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that have made agency actions contingent upon the relinquishment or modification of a water right. These efforts go counter to the principle foundations of western water law, fly in the face of state law and set a dangerous precedent. Our members count on federal infrastructure to deliver both project and non-project water. Non-project water is privately owned; it has not been appropriated, acquired by, or apportioned to, the United States. In addition, many of our members deliver water through facilities that cross USFS or BLM land. The creation of a process through which water deliveries could be made contingent on the modification, relinquishment or surrender of a water right is unacceptable. Moreover, allowing such a precedent would cause this assault on state water rights to spread in various forms to other agencies within the Agriculture and Interior Departments. Congress, needs to provide the respective Secretaries with clear guidance on this subject, H.R. 3189 provides this guidance.

The USFS and BLM efforts to curtail water rights have been focused on western states, but the implementation of this kind of policy would have ramifications throughout the nation. According to the United States Geological Survey, nearly seventy five percent of the irrigated agriculture in the U.S. is found in the seventeen western states. These states on average receive less than twenty inches of rain each year, making the reliable delivery of irrigation water vital. In order to protect our members' water rights, assure the continued delivery of clean water to millions of people and protect the integrity of western water law the NWRA supports the Water Rights Protection Act.

On behalf of NWRA's members I thank you for your attention to the critical water supply issues facing our nation, and for supporting our members as they continue to be